



1963

Subanon (Philippines)

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SIL-UND

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An example of
Subanon poetry

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Informant: Pantas Guitao
Language: Subanon of Siocon,
Philippines
Date: September, 1959

egibid¹ bu egbuaya
lizard and crocodile

1. mi-tengew neg²buaya eg-ibid //
(past)-see (R)-crocodile (R)-lizard
2. mik-talu' eg-buaya seg-ibid /
(past)-say (R)-crocodile (R)-lizard
3. idun / ibid / b-in-eleknek-beleknek-a³ ma //
why lizard (past)-silt-you so
4. b-in-eleknek-u doda' / ma'leng neg-ibid /
(past)-silt-I indeed answer (R)-lizard
5. b-in-ian-an-u neg-layas //
(past)-pass over-(loc.)-me (R)-flood
6. eg-buaya sep mak-talu' /
(R)-crocodile again (pres.)-say
7. idun eg-layas da'-a k-anud //
why (R)-flood not-you (aspect)-float
8. m-anud-mu ta' e-genduk /
(pres.)-float-you (question) (R)-boulder
9. mak-talu' eg-ibid //
(pres.)-say (R)-lizard
10. idun e-genduk da' sunkal-ey //
why (R)-boulder not pry up-(loc.)
11. me-sunkal-mu ta' eg-delanit /
(pres.)-pry up-you (question) (R)-river bed
12. ma'leng neg-ibid //
answer (R)-lizard
13. idun eg-delanit da' lulun-ey //
why (R)-river bed not roll up-(loc.)
14. mo-lulun-mu ta' eg-dagat //
(pres.)-roll up-you (question) (R)-sea
15. idun eg-dagat da' limas-ey //
why (R)-sea not splash away-(loc.)
16. me-limas-an-mu ta' e-gawang //
(pres.)-splash away-(loc.)-you (question) (R)-air

17. idun e-gawang da' po-leyug-ey
 why (R)-air not (caus.)-fly through-(loc.)
 neg-banug //
 (R)-eagle
18. dini eg-banug-mu / po-leyug-an-ta //
 here (R)-eagle-your (caus.)-fly-(loc.)-we //

The lizard and the crocodile

1. A crocodile saw a lizard.
2. The crocodile said to the lizard,
3. Why, Lizard, are you covered with silt?
4. Covered with silt I am indeed, answered the lizard.
5. A flood passed over me.
6. The crocodile proceeded to say,
7. Why did not the flood float you away?
8. Can you float away a boulder?
9. Said the lizard.
10. Why is not the boulder pried up?
11. Can you pry up the river bed?
12. Answered the lizard.
13. Why is not the river bed rolled up?
14. Can you roll up the sea?
15. Why is not the sea splashed away?
16. Can you splash away the air?
17. Why is not the air flown through by an eagle?
18. Let's see your eagle! We will make him fly through it!

¹e "pepet vowel", phonetically ʌ and higher.

²R relation marker.

³Every occurrence of -in- is an infix. That which precedes and follows is one morpheme, as b-in-eleknek is -in- plus beleknek.